

May 9, 2000

achieved his objectives in Congress. He has made numerous friends on the Hill and has convinced many of us that both Taiwan and the PRC can be true beneficiaries of a wise U.S. East Asia policy.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Chen has earned our respect and genuine affection during his tenure in Washington. It has been my privilege to know Stephen and his charming wife Rosa and to enjoy their warm hospitality at Twin Oaks. I will miss their charm, their wit and their graciousness. I send Stephen and Rosa my best wishes for the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE
CAUSEY, COLUMNIST FOR THE
WASHINGTON POST

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the last column by Mike Causey, who is moving on to a new career after 36 years at the Washington Post.

As the Post's "Federal Dairy" columnist, Mr. Causey has been covering federal employee issues for years, and as a Member of Congress who has many federal employees in my district, it has been a pleasure working with him. He has always been fair and objective, and I want to wish him all the best as he moves on to a new career.

[From The Washington Post, May 8, 2000]

TODAY'S THE DAY DIARY COLUMNIST TURNS
THE PAGE

(Federal Diary by Mike Causey)

Well, there comes a time, and this is it.

This is my last Federal Diary column for the Washington Post.

I leave this job pretty much as I entered it: still suspicious of the statistics that powerful organizations pump out. For example:

The usually reliable Washington Post—my longtime home—says I produced 11,287 bylines. It seems like more than that. But who's counting?

Also, The Post says I've been here for 36 years—as messenger, copy boy, reporter and columnist. They got the job titles right. But 36 years? It seems like only yesterday. Honest.

So, how to sum up?

The most-asked question (other than, "Did a real barber cut your hair?") has been this: How could you produce six columns a week, year after year, without going nuts?

The answer is simple: for several years I did the Federal Diary column seven days a week. When they gave me Saturdays off, it removed all the pressure. Almost all.

Secondly, it was part of the job description.

Finally, I loved every minute of it. Honest. Being here for nearly four decades has

Over the years—in the line of duty—I have been shot at, gassed, tossed off a building. I covered the first Beatles concert and got to be one of the first people to circle the Capital Beltway. I was once run out of a small town in Western Maryland by a mob that, now that I think about it, had good reason to speed my departure from its fair community.

Being a newspaper reporter means never having to grow up. I got to see how things work, or are supposed to, or don't. The

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

events and machines and tours were fascinating. The people—almost without exception—were wonderful.

Reporters get to meet lots of VIPs. But for most of us "beat" reporters, the best part is the so-called ordinary people who, more often than not, are extraordinary. Just quieter than VIPs. The reason they are so good is simple: It's part of their job description. They say (by the way, in all these years I have never discovered who "they" are) that reporters are only as good as their sources. True, up to a point. Sources are critical. But the real secret weapon for a successful reporter has two parts:

The people (as in colleagues) you work with.

The people (as in readers) you work for.

It is that simple, and that complicated.

Working with several generations of Washington Post types has been an education. Trust me on that one.

Reporters get the glory. But they only look good if they have great editors, researchers and backup. And reporters wouldn't last a minute, and you would never read their award-winning words, if it weren't for the people who do the real work. Like sell and process ads, make sure folks get billed and paid—so we can get paid—and produce and deliver the paper. For 25 cents you get, every day, the equivalent of a book printed overnight. Not a bad deal.

Working with, and writing about, federal employees and military personnel has been a treat. If there are more dedicated people in this country, I have yet to meet them. I have known lots of people who would die for this country, and several who did. Few bankers, columnists, lawyers or CEOs can make that claim.

Bureaucrats—and I don't have to say this anymore—are indeed beautiful. And don't you forget it.

I could go on, but I hope you get the idea. Besides, time and space—as always—are limited.

So has this been fun? And rewarding? Short answer: You bet!

But this isn't a wake. Or even a goodbye. More in the order of see-you-later. I hope.

Next stop for me is the brave new world of the Internet. I'll be at 1825 I St. NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20006. Stay in touch.

I'm leaving here, but The Post will always be home. Always.

This column has been around since the 1930s. It's been on loan to me for a long time. My successor, Stephen Barr, is an old friend. He's a Texan and a Vietnam vet, and he knows the beat. Best of all, he's a very nice guy.

I hope Steve has as much fun as I did. Remember, he's had nearly half a century to prepare for his first column, which will begin Sunday. But he will have only one day to write his second column. So a little help and encouragement from you would be nice.

Thanks.

Mike

UNION PACKAGING—NEW PHILA-
DELPHIA MINORITY ENTERPRISE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a significant new minority enterprise in the Philadelphia area, Union Packaging, and

7401

its African-American president, Michael Pearson. Union Packaging was launched in December of last year by a \$25.8 million 3-year contract to supply paper cartons to 2,300 McDonald's restaurants along the east coast. As a minority supplier, Union Packaging joins a growing force that last year provided over \$3 billion in goods and services to the McDonald's system. The contract with McDonald's gives Pearson, as he says, "an opportunity to provide a vehicle for job creation and to be a linchpin for rebirth" in West Philadelphia. It reflects McDonald's commitment to investing in the community. Last year, the company brought new life and opportunities to our inner city by relocating one of its five divisional headquarters there. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this article on Union Packaging, published in the March 22, 2000, issue of Philadelphia Inquirer, be placed in the RECORD and I encourage my colleagues to read the account of this exciting new venture.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Mar. 22, 2000]

PACKED UP AND RARIN' TO GO
MCDONALD'S HAS CONTRACTED WITH UNION
PACKAGING, A MINORITY BUSINESS, TO SUPPLY
CARTONS FOR ITS FOOD

(By Rosland Briggs-Gammon)

The warehouse at Union Packaging L.L.C. is filled with empty McDonald's apple pie and chicken nugget cartons. They are some of the first of millions of fast-food cartons awaiting distribution to 2,300 McDonald's locations along the East Coast. The Yeadon company, a joint venture between two area product packaging firms, has a new three-year, \$25.8 million contract to supply the paper cartons to McDonald's.

It is McDonald Corp.'s first minority business enterprise contract in the Philadelphia area, and Union Packaging's first account. The two companies celebrated at an open house yesterday.

Michael Pearson, president of Union Packaging, opened the plant in January at an industrial park that sits near the border of Delaware and Philadelphia Counties.

The company is a joint venture between Providence Packaging Inc., owned by Pearson, and Dopaco Inc., a packaging firm in Exton. The partnership allows Union Packaging, 51 percent owned by Pearson, who is African American, to bid on corporate contracts as a minority-owned business.

The partnership also allows Union Packaging to delay purchasing printing equipment until next year. In the interim, Dopaco prints and cuts the paper used to make the cartons. Dopaco also has lent the company experienced employees to help train its workers and start production.

"It is so expensive to get into business," said Dopaco's chairman and chief executive officer Edward Fitts. "Dopaco has expensive equipment already so Union Packaging doesn't have to make an investment in equipment right now. That's the kind of relationship that will help minority firms."

Such partnerships are becoming more common, said Lynda Ireland, president of the New York/New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council. Similar partnerships started in the construction industry, she said. "It is certainly something we are trying to encourage," Ireland said. "To get into the corporate-America arena, you have to be creative."

Pearson, 38, spent three years working for a packaging firm in New York. Using his experience there, he decided to start his own